IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 1 AMEND claims 2-7 in accordance with the following:

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) The device driver apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ <u>6</u>, wherein the predetermined protocol is a SCSI protocol or an encapsulation protocol consisting of a protocol that encapsulates SCSI information but not consisting of the SCSI protocol.

3. (currently amended) ~~The~~ <u>A</u> device driver apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~, ~~wherein~~ <u>connected to an initiator via a bus, transmitting and receiving signals to and from a process simulating an I/O device, comprising:</u>
<u>an adapter, connected to the bus, transmitting to and receiving from the initiator at least one of a command and a set of data using a predetermined protocol; and</u>
<u>a driver, arranged between said adapter and a pseudo I/O process simulating the I/O device, notifying the pseudo I/O process of at least one of the command and the set of data transmitted from said adapter, notifying said adapter of at least one of status and another set of data notified from the pseudo I/O process, and performing a queuing process when receiving commands from the pseudo I/O process,</u> said adapter ~~notifies~~ <u>notifying</u> said driver of the command upon receipt of the command from the initiator, said driver ~~notifies~~ <u>notifying</u> the pseudo I/O process of the command after receipt of notification, the pseudo I/O process ~~returns~~ <u>returning</u> an exchange status to said driver, said driver ~~notifies~~ <u>notifying</u> said adapter of the status, and said adapter ~~returns~~ <u>returning</u> the status to the initiator.

4. (currently amended) ~~The~~ <u>A</u> device driver apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~, ~~wherein~~ <u>connected to an initiator via a bus, transmitting and receiving signals to and from a process simulating an I/O device, comprising:</u>

an adapter, connected to the bus, transmitting to and receiving from the initiator at least one of a command and a set of data using a predetermined protocol; and

a driver, arranged between said adapter and a pseudo I/O process simulating the I/O device, notifying the pseudo I/O process of at least one of the command and the set of data transmitted from said adapter, notifying said adapter of at least one of status and another set of data notified from the pseudo I/O process, and performing a queuing process when receiving commands from the pseudo I/O process,

said adapter ~~notifies~~ notifying said driver of the command upon receipt of the command from the initiator,

said driver ~~notifies~~ notifying the pseudo I/O process of the notified command,

the pseudo I/O process ~~prepares~~ preparing a set of data, ~~stores~~ storing the set of the data at the buffer address in a buffer, and ~~returns~~ returning the buffer address to said driver,

said driver ~~sets~~ storing the buffer address in a register of said adapter, and

said adapter ~~extracts~~ extracting the set of the data from the buffer address in the register, and ~~transmits~~ transmitting the set of the data to the initiator.

5. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A device driver apparatus ~~according to claim 1, wherein~~ connected to an initiator via a bus, transmitting and receiving signals to and from a process simulating an I/O device, comprising:

an adapter, connected to the bus, transmitting to and receiving from the initiator at least one of a command and a set of data using a predetermined protocol; and

a driver, arranged between said adapter and a pseudo I/O process simulating the I/O device, notifying the pseudo I/O process of at least one of the command and the set of data transmitted from said adapter, notifying said adapter of at least one of status and another set of data notified from the pseudo I/O process, and performing a queuing process when receiving commands from the pseudo I/O process,

said adapter ~~notifies~~ notifying said driver of the command upon receipt of the command from the initiator,

said driver ~~notifies~~ notifying the pseudo I/O process of the command,

the pseudo I/O process ~~prepares~~ preparing a buffer, and ~~returns~~ returning a buffer address to said driver,

said driver ~~sets~~ storing the buffer address in a register of said adapter,

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said adapter ~~stores~~ storing a set of data that is received from the initiator by issuing a data request using the buffer address in the register, and ~~notifies~~ notifying said driver that the set of data has been stored,

said driver ~~notifies~~ asynchronously notifying the pseudo I/O process that the data has been received,

the pseudo I/O process ~~extracts~~ extracting the data from the buffer, and ~~returns~~ returning a response status to said driver,

said driver ~~sets~~ storing the status in a register of said adapter, and

said adapter ~~returns~~ returning the status to the initiator.

6. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A device driver apparatus ~~according to claim 1, wherein said~~ connected to an initiator via a bus, transmitting and receiving signals to and from a process simulating an I/O device, comprising:

an adapter, connected to the bus, transmitting to and receiving from the initiator at least one of a command and a set of data using a predetermined protocol; and

a driver ~~is~~ configured ~~by~~ as a low-order driver for said adapter, a high-order driver for ~~the~~ a pseudo I/O process simulating the I/O device, and a medium-order driver transmitting/receiving the ~~signal~~ signals between the low-order driver and the high-order driver, notifying the pseudo I/O process of the at least one of the command and the set of data transmitted from said adapter, notifying said adapter of at least one of status and another set of data notified from the pseudo I/O process, and performing a queuing process when receiving multiple commands from the pseudo I/O process.

7. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A device driver apparatus ~~according to claim 1, wherein~~ connected to an initiator via a bus, transmitting and receiving signals to and from a process simulating an I/O device, comprising:

an adapter, connected to the bus, transmitting to and receiving from the initiator at least one of a command and a set of data using a predetermined protocol; and

a driver, arranged between said adapter and a pseudo I/O process simulating the I/O device, notifying the pseudo I/O process of at least one of the command and the set of data transmitted from said adapter, notifying said adapter of at least one of status and another set of data notified from the pseudo I/O process, and performing a queuing process when receiving commands from the pseudo I/O process, the pseudo I/O process ~~notifies~~ notifying at least one of said adapter ~~or~~ and said driver of an error exclusively associated with an encapsulation protocol

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consisting of a protocol that encapsulates SCSI information but not consisting of a SCSI protocol, and the at least one of said adapter or and said driver makes the error occur.

8. (previously presented) The device driver apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the pseudo I/O process simulates a specified actual I/O device by transmitting/receiving the status or the data of the specified I/O device.

9. (previously presented) The device driver apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the pseudo I/O process simulates an error test of a specified actual I/O device by making an error, which is exclusively associated with an encapsulation protocol consisting of a protocol that encapsulates SCSI information but not consisting of a SCSI protocol, and is specified when transmitting/receiving the status or data of the specified I/O device occurs.